

1962

2 Aug

The Designated Systems Management Group selected Grand Forks, North Dakota, as the operating location for Wing VI.

16 Aug

Minuteman Category II test program, established in accordance with AFR 80-14, began at Vandenberg Air Force Base, four days ahead of schedule.*

7 Sep

Brigadier General S. C. Phillips, director of the Minuteman program, announced at an Executive Council Management Meeting in Seattle, a possible funding problem in fiscal 1963 extending into fiscal 1964. Each contractor was requested to study its Minuteman financial requirements in detail and present the results of the study at BSD during the second week in October 1962.

17 Sep

Final elements of the Minuteman program office were transferred from Los Angeles to BSD at Norton Air Force Base.

Nov

USAF headquarters directed the Minuteman program office to investigate the feasibility of adding a Permissive Link (command at the highest existing level of decision to launch) to the weapon system.

11 Dec

The first two flights of operational Minuteman missiles were delivered to the Strategic Air Command on schedule at Wing I, Malmstrom Air Force Base. Construction work at all other designated Minuteman sites was on schedule.

26 Dec

The Department of Defense approved a Minuteman force of 1,300 missiles (26 squadrons) and funds in excess of current authority but less than requested by the Designated Systems Management Group.

31 Dec

As the first Minuteman operational flights were completed and turned over to the Strategic Air Command electronic problems--inevitably--emerged which required "fixes." These centered on correcting possible malfunctions of automated equipment that posed serious hazards; accidental launch, explosive dangers, communication failures, etc. An added difficulty was the frequent failure of USAF and Department of Defense to promptly release funds necessary to permit BSD to initiate specific procurements necessary to prevent debasing the operational status of the program.

*There were three categories of tests assigned to Air Force weapon systems: Category I comprised subsystem development, test, research and development; Category II, weapon system development, test, and evaluation; and Category III operational test and evaluation. Category III, under control and direction of the operating command, included demonstration and shakedown operations (DASO) and Follow-on Operational Tests (FOOT).